



NGC News

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World Coins: British 1889 Commemorative Medal

In 1889, The Aluminium Company Limited London issued commemorative medals struck in aluminum and produced using the Deville-Castner process.

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From the NGC Archives: 1849 Braided Hair Cent

The so-called Mature Head of Liberty, as seen on this large cent, is really nothing more than the older Petite Head rotated a few degrees.

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Chinese Coins: Set Pieces

By Peter Anthony

A set of low-mintage Panda medals offers both value and beauty to collectors.

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Numismatica Leiloes to Present Important Collection of NGC-graded Portuguese Coins

The upcoming Numismatica Leiloes auction features a rich selection of Portuguese coins solely certified by NGC.

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Immunis Columbia Confederation Copper Highlights November Eric P. Newman Offerings

By Heritage Auctions

Heritage Auctions' November event in New York features selections from the Eric P. Newman Collection Part V.

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NGC Retro Holder Program Is Back by Popular Demand!

Posted on 9/9/2014

NGC's popular black Retro Holder will be available for select US coins from October 1 to December 31 while supplies last.

Starting October 1, 2014, NGC will again offer its popular black Retro Holder and black label for the following US coins: Silver Eagles, Gold Eagles, Gold Buffaloes, Presidential Dollars, Sacagawea Dollars as well as all common date Morgan Dollars and Peace Dollars.

The black Retro Holder is reminiscent of NGC's first coin holder, introduced in 1987 and available only for a few months.

Quantities of the Retro Holder are limited for each coin type and are available only **while quantities last**. Check this article posted on the NGC website before sending an order as we will post when a particular coin is no longer eligible.

Submissions must be received by NGC between October 1 and December 31, 2014. The program ends on or before December 31, 2014 based on availability.



NGC's Black Retro Holder with Black Label

Submission Instructions:

- Select the tier listed below for the corresponding coin:

Silver Eagles (MS & PF):

- Select the **Modern** tier or higher and select **Special Label/Releases**.
No additional cost.

Gold Eagles (MS & PF) - \$5, \$10, \$25 and \$50:

- Select the **Modern** tier or higher and select **Special Label/Releases**.
No additional cost. Select the Early Bird tier for coins valued over \$1,000. No additional cost.

Gold Buffalos (MS & PF) - \$5, \$10, \$25 and \$50:

- Select the **Modern** tier or higher and select **Special Label/Releases**.
for coins valued \$1,000 and below. Select the Early Bird tier for coins valued over \$1,000. No additional cost.

Platinum Eagles (MS & PF) - \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100:

- Select the **Modern** tier or higher and select **Special Label/Releases**.
for coins valued \$1,000 and below. Select the Early Bird tier for coins valued over \$1,000. No additional cost.

Presidential and Sacagawea Dollars (MS & PF):

- Select the **Modern** tier or higher and select **Special Label/Releases**.
No additional cost.

Morgan and Peace Dollars (All common dates):

- Select the Early Bird tier or higher. No additional cost.

- The 5-coin minimum applies to the Modern tier.
- ReHolders for Retro Holder must be submitted under the Special Label ReHolder service tier. Standard fee of \$14 per coin applies.
- **Coins for the Retro Holder MUST be on their own submission invoice. The coins cannot be mixed with other coins to qualify for this holder.**
- Write "Retro Holder" on the submission form.

- NGC's attractive Buffalo label (pictured below) will be the **default label for all Gold Buffalo coins**.



To request the black label for Gold Buffalo coins, write "Retro Holder/Black Label" on the submission form.

- All eligible coins must arrive at NGC between October 1 and December 31, 2014.

Offer available while quantities of the Retro Holder last.

NGC will accept submissions for this special holder at trade shows, but they are not eligible for on-site grading.

NGC reserves the right to not accept certain high grade Morgan and Peace dollars for the Retro Holder promotion, or dates that are considered to be rare.

Dealers should contact [Scott Heller](#) at NGC for bulk submissions.

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646).

Collectors Society paid members can submit their coins directly to NGC. Not an NGC Collectors Society member? Paid memberships start at just \$39/year. Join as a Premium member, or upgrade to Premium membership, and you'll receive a coupon to have five coins graded for free. [Join today](#).

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 United States 

NGC Grades Second "No P" 1987 China Gold 5 Yuan Panda

Posted on 9/16/2014

In 1987 China struck Gold 5 Yuan Pandas with three mintmarks: P, Y and S. NGC has recently graded a second example of a Proof Yuan Panda with a missing mintmark.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) recently graded a second example of a China 1987 Gold 5 Yuan Panda coin struck without the "P" mintmark. The "P" mintmark indicated that the coin was struck in Proof format, while the Y and S mintmarks were used for Mint State pieces struck at the Shenyang and Shanghai mints, respectively.



China 1987 Gold 5 Yuan Panda Without "P" mintmark left, with "P" mintmark right
Click images to enlarge.



China 1987 Gold 5 Yuan Panda with "Y" mintmark left, "S" mintmark right
Click images to enlarge.

NGC graders compared the missing mintmark piece to the P, Y, and S-mintmarked 5 Yuan Pandas from that year and determined that its strike and surface quality are identical to the Proof "P" version and distinct from the Mint State "Y" and "S" coins. This variety has been designated “Missing Mintmark” on the NGC certification label.



China 1987 Gold 5 Yuan Panda, Missing Mintmark
Click images to enlarge.

The total planned mintage for 1987-P Proof Gold 5 Yuan Panda coins was 10,000 coins. It is not known how many coins were struck without the “P” mintmark.



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NGC Registry Awards 2014: New Rules Regarding Obscured Sets

Posted on 9/10/2014

*Every year, NGC awards the top Competitive Sets and Custom Sets in the NGC Registry. Ensure your set is at its best by 5pm ET on December 3 to be automatically considered for awards. **Winners will be announced January 9, 2015.***

As in past years, the winners will include world-class collections and incredible exhibitions. Make sure yours are among them, and see if your collection has what it takes! This year, awards are being presented in the following categories:

Competitive Set Awards

Awards will be presented in the following four categories:

- The FIVE Best CLASSIC Sets: 1792-1964
- The FIVE Best MODERN Sets: 1950 to date (including Jefferson Nickels and Roosevelt Dimes)
- The FIVE Best PRESENTED Sets: Sets with the best descriptive text and coin images
- The FIVE Best WORLD Sets

Custom Set Awards

Awards will be presented in the following four categories:

- The Best Overall Custom Set
- The Best World Custom Set
- The Best Ancient Custom Set
- The Most Creative Custom Set

- The Most Informative Custom Set

Take the honors in one of these categories, and you'll receive a personalized plaque, an icon of recognition next to your set's registry listing and up to five Deluxe PHOTO PROOFS® or five NGC Photo Vision™ presentations of NGC coins from your winning set.

To participate, just enter your set online in the [NGC Registry](#). Sets must be at least 50% complete to be eligible for the award categories above.

Collectors Journal Awards

Additionally, we will award three outstanding Collectors Journal authors. We will consider an author's complete collection of journal entries in determining the winners. Journals entries will be judged on writing talent, creativity, enthusiasm, numismatic knowledge and, most importantly, the sharing of a personal sense of the collecting journey. The winning authors will receive a personalized plaque and an icon of recognition on their homepages.

Also, collectors with the #1 set in each category and collectors with the #1 ranked NGC exclusive set in each category will receive an icon of recognition by his/her set in the Registry and a certificate of achievement.

Obscured sets will not be considered for awards. If an owner of an obscured set wishes to compete for awards and have the rank of their set displayed, they must change their set from obscured to public by October 1, 2014.

The deadline for set registration and journal entries is 5 p.m. ET on December 3, 2014.

Winners will be announced on January 9, 2015.

[Click to view previous year's award winners.](#)

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NGC Registry News

Posted on 9/16/2014

Check out the newest US and world sets as well as the numerous slots added to the NGC Registry this month.

US Sets

- US: Cents: Large Cents, Classic Head, 1808-1814, Complete by Sheldon Varieties

World Sets

- Australia - Commemorative
Set Name: Platypus Series, Platinum \$100, 2011-Date, Mint State
- Canada - Lunar: Lunar Coins, Gold \$150, Series II, 2010-Date, Proof
- Costa Rica: Gold Peso, 1864-1872, Circulation Issue
- Guyana: Type Set, 1836, Complete
- Ivory Coast: 1500 Francs, 2007-Date, Complete
- Japan: 5 Rin, 1916-1919, Circulation Issue
- Japan: 5 Sen, 1889-1897, Circulation Issue
- Japan: 5 Sen, 1897-1905, Circulation Issue
- San Marino Silver 5 Euro, 2002-Date, Proof
- Uruguay: 40 Centesimos, 1844-1857, Circulation Issue, with Varieties

We also have new Categories available in the NGC Registry:
Essequibo & Demerary, Ivory Coast, Morocco, and Tonga

Here is just a sample of some of the new slots we have added this month:

- Australia - Bullion Set Name: Koala, Silver Dollars, 2007-Date, Complete
Slot Name: 2014P KOALA WITH CHINESE PRIVY
- Australia - Bullion Set Name: Kangaroo Silver Dollars, 1 Ounce, F-Series, Complete
Slot Name: 2014 KANGAROO - F15 PF

- Australia - Bullion Set Name: Kangaroo Silver Dollars, 1990-Date, Complete (Incl. Varieties) Slot Name: 2014 KANGAROO F15 PF
- Canada - Commemorative Set Name: Silver \$10, Commemorative Issues, 1973-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2014 SALMON HOLOGRAM - COLORIZED
- Canada - Commemorative Set Name: Silver \$10, Commemorative Issues, 1973-Date, Proof and Specimen Slot Name: 2014 SALMON HOLOGRAM - COLORIZED PF
- Canada - Commemorative Set Name: Silver \$15, 1992-Date, Complete Proof Slot Name: 2014 MAPLE OF LONGEVITY - HOLOGRAM
- Canada - Bullion Set Name: Silver Maple Leafs - Special Issues Slot Name: 2014 MAPLE LEAF IMPRESSION GREEN ENAMEL - COLORIZED S\$20 PF
- Australia - Lunar Set Name: Lunar Coins, Silver \$8, Series Two (With Colorized), 2008-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2014P YEAR OF THE HORSE – COLORIZED
- Canada Set Name: One Dollar, Elizabeth II, 1975-Date, Uncirculated Set Issue Slot Name: 2014 BABY GIFT SET
- Canada Set Name: One Dollar, Elizabeth II, 1975-Date, Uncirculated Set Issue Slot Name: 2014 BIRTHDAY GIFT SET
- Canada Set Name: One Dollar, Elizabeth II, 1975-Date, Uncirculated Set Issue Slot Name 2014 O CANADA GIFT SET
- Canada Set Name: One Dollar, Elizabeth II, 1975-Date, Uncirculated Set Issue Slot Name: 2014 WEDDING GIFT SET
- China - Panda Set Name: Silver 10Y Panda Commemoratives, 1991-Date, Mint State and Proof Slot Name: 2014 CHINA CONSTRUCTION BANK 60TH ANNIVERSARY (MS)
- China - Panda Set Name: Gold 1/4 Ounce Panda Commemoratives, 2004-Date, Mint State and Proof Slot Name: 2014 PANDA CHINA CONSTRUCTION BANK 60TH ANNIVERSARY (MS)
- Great Britain - Decimal Set Name: Five Pounds (Elizabeth II) 1990-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2014 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH QUEEN ANNE
- Niue Set Name: Silver \$2, 2009-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2014 DONALD DUCK 80TH ANNIVERSARY
- Niue Set Name: Silver Coins, 2009-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2014 DONALD DUCK 80TH ANNIVERSARY S\$2
- South Africa - Republic Set Name: Commemorative 2 1/2 Cents, 1997-2005, Proof Slot Name: 2014 CLASS 10M3 - FLYPRESS
- Tuvalu Set Name: Silver 50 Cents, 2012-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2014 LIONESS - COLORIZED
- Tuvalu Set Name: Silver 50 Cents, 2012-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2014

GIRAFFE - COLORIZED

- Tuvalu Set Name: Silver 50 Cents, 2012-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2014

BROWN BEAR - COLORIZED

- Tuvalu Set Name: Silver 50 Cents, 2012-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2014

ASIAN ELEPHANT - COLORIZED

Start your collection now and participate in the [NGC Registry Awards](#). Find an NGC Registry category that interests you and add your certified coins. If you're not familiar with the [NGC Registry](#) take some time to explore it, and see the many collecting options that are available—it's free!

We have been busy adding new slots. Do you own a coin that still needs a slot in the Registry? If so, please shoot us an email, and let us know. We are happy to add it for you. In preparation for our annual NGC Registry awards, we will have a temporary hold on adding new slots as of Wednesday, November 5th, until after the award deadline in December. If you don't see the set categories that interest you, drop us a note and let us know. Reach us by e-mail at registry@NGCcoin.com. We look forward to seeing your coin collection in the 2014 NGC Registry competition.

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NGC Accepting Submissions at the PNG New York Invitational

Posted on 9/16/2014

NGC will be accepting submissions at booths #40–42 (8th floor) at the PNG New York Invitational. Stop by to drop off your coins!

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels* at the [PNG New York Invitational](#), at the Millennium Broadway Hotel in New York, NY from Thursday, October 9 to 12:00 pm on Saturday,



October 11, 2014. **Saturday cut-off time may change due to submission volumes.** Check with representatives at the NGC booth for details including any changes to the Saturday cut-off time.

All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more.

Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, Kennedy Half Dollar 50th Anniversary Commemoratives, 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame Commemoratives, 2013 American Buffalo One Ounce Gold Reverse Proof, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early/First Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- *Does not include 5-ounce coins.

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com

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Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

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United States

NGC Ancients: A New Coin Type of Roman Egypt

Posted on 9/16/2014

Although Roman Egypt coinage is well published, new discovery coins can still be found.

In the field of ancient coins new coin types are discovered with some frequency. Though 'discovery' ancients are rare in comparison to documented types, the field is so broad that there is much greater opportunity to discover previously unknown types than in most any other area of numismatics.

One of the many 'discovery' coins that came across the desk at NGC Ancients was published in the [June 2013 issue](#) of the NGC eNewsletter. A few months later it fetched a king's ransom at auction. Had this silver denarius of the Roman Emperor Hadrian (A.D. 117-138) been a common type – even in its excellent state of preservation – it would have been worth in the \$500 to \$750 range. However, its importance as a discovery piece caused it to be hammered down to a determined bidder for \$10,000 plus the buyer's premium at the Heritage World Coin Auction held April 10, 2014.



Another 'discovery' ancient is this copper drachm from the mint of Alexandria, Egypt, which also was struck for the Emperor Hadrian. Sent in for identification and grading by dealer member American Coin & Stamp Brokerage of Merrick, NY,

it immediately caught the attention of our experts as something worthy of extra research.



The style of the emperor's portrait belongs to the earliest years of his reign, a fact confirmed by the date on the reverse. The letter "B" to the right of the temple and a faint trace of the letter "L" to the left indicate that this coin was struck in the second year of coinage in Egypt during Hadrian's reign, thus sometime between August 29, A.D. 117 and August 28, A.D. 118. The reason for this odd (and precise) period of issue is that the calendar year in Roman Egypt began on August 29.

The aspect of this coin that makes it unusual is the three figures within the temple on the reverse. An expert on the coins of Roman Egypt, Kerry Wetterstrom of the Classical Numismatic Group of Lancaster, PA, acknowledges that this type appears to be a discovery. He notes: "Even for a coinage as well-published as that of Roman Egypt, one can still find new, previously unknown types. This is one of the many reasons the coinage of Roman Egypt remains popular with today's collectors."

The combination of the three divinities within the temple betrays the rich and varied religious beliefs of the people who lived in Egypt during the period of Roman domination. The central figure unquestionably is Serapis, an Egyptian-style god of Greek creation. For comparison, see the image of Serapis on this copper drachm struck in Egypt in A.D. 141/2 for Hadrian's successor, the Emperor Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138-161).



The goddess standing to the right of Serapis is Tyche, the protectress of cities and the goddess of good fortune and prosperity, known to the Romans as Fortuna. She often is portrayed on ancient coinage, including on this Egyptian drachm of Hadrian struck in A.D. 132/3.



The figure to the left of Serapis is more difficult to identify with certainty, despite the clarity of the design. She most likely is the Greek goddess Demeter. Known to the Romans as Ceres, this divinity had a primary responsibility for agriculture. A figure of Demeter strikingly similar to the one on the discovery coin appears at the left on the reverse of this copper drachm struck in Egypt in A.D. 113/4 for the Emperor Trajan (A.D. 98-117).



Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group.

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United States

Counterfeit Detection: 1802 Draped Bust Silver Dollar

Posted on 9/16/2014

This spurious 1802 dollar is a good example of a typical counterfeit Bust Dollar seen by NGC graders.

The Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle Reverse silver dollar was introduced in 1798 as an update to the Small Eagle Reverse type that had been minted from 1794 to 1798. The new design was similarly short-lived and just six years of business strikes were produced. (The 1804 Dollar was struck only in proof and not until the mid-1830s.)

On the surface, the 1802 would appear to be the rarest Heraldic Eagle Reverse dollar with a reported mintage of just 41,650 pieces—the lowest of the series. However, 1802 dollars are more available than the mintage suggests, and many numismatists speculate that 1802-dated pieces continued to be struck into the following year. Q. David Bowers, for example, estimates the actual mintage to be approximately 80,000 coins.

Despite their relative availability, there is significant interest in the 1802 dollar from both type collectors and series specialists. As a result, prices for 1802 dollars easily exceed \$1,000 even in the lowest condition. Values climb to five figures in AU 50 and higher grades.

The high demand and values for Bust Dollars (both Small and Heraldic Eagle types) has led counterfeiters to extensively target this series, and NGC regularly receives fakes of all dates, including the 1802. This spurious 1802 dollar, for example, is typical of counterfeit Bust Dollars seen by NGC graders.

The two issues with this piece that immediately catch one's eye are the pockmarked fields and the soft design details. The fields do not appear abraded, as one might expect from an early dollar, but instead have a corroded and

abnormal look. Both the obverse and reverse are softly defined, and the uneven level of detail in different areas is a red flag.



Counterfeit 1802 Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle Reverse Silver Dollar
Click images to enlarge.

A closer inspection reveals additional problems, such as the raised lump above the middle star on the reverse and another to the right of the arrows. These raised lumps are almost never seen on genuine coins. There is also unusual design doubling at the date and the bottom of the eagle.



Counterfeit 1802 Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle Reverse
Silver Dollar Close Up. *Click image to enlarge.*

The counterfeiter cleaned and artificially toned this forgery, a common tactic to make the coin appear old and distract from the more important authenticity issues. These methods and tricks employed by con artists are seen again and again so familiarity with them is crucial to counterfeit detection. Individually, each problem is enough to raise suspicion, and taken together they easily condemn this coin as a fake.

Interested in reading more articles on Counterfeit Detection? Click [here](#).

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USA Coin Album: The Coins of 1916 - Part 3

Posted on 9/16/2014

The year 1916 saw a reduction in both the variety and quantities of gold coins produced. This was no mere coincidence, as the Treasury was attempting to cut back on the minting of gold coins in order to keep up with the increased demand for minor coinage and fractional silver pieces brought on by the European War.

As the USA was furnishing Europe with much of its provisions during the war, the amount of gold coming into the country had been growing steadily since 1914. The amount of gold coinage in circulation was determined by the dollar value of gold certificate currency, as the law stipulated that two-thirds of this value be backed in actual coin. Early in 1916 Treasury Secretary William G. McAdoo requested that the ratio be altered to half coin and half bullion to ease the production of gold coins that were “circulating” only on the books. In reality these coins were not wanted in daily commerce and were simply piling up in vaults. Congress not only altered the ratio, it reduced it to just one third gold coin, and this meant that existing stocks were adequate to meet legal requirements until 1920 before mass production resumed.



The quarter eagle was a coin that typically had no role in ordinary commerce, and predictable numbers were coined mostly near the end of each year simply to meet the demand for holiday gifts and other special presentations. These coins were either preserved as mementos or quickly returned to banks in deposits. Since the presenters always wanted new coins, the quarter eagle’s useful role had effectively ended after this single cycle was completed. By the time that 1916’s gift giving season came around the minting of gold had all but ceased, and this charming tradition was suspended until 1925. Thus, there would be no 1916

quarter eagles.

The half eagle, in contrast, did enjoy some actual circulating demand, though this was restricted to the western states where paper money was still viewed with some suspicion. The San Francisco Mint alone turned out 240,000 Indian Head half eagles in 1916, but this would be the last production of this denomination until 1929. The suspension of gold coinage during 1916 had the unanticipated effect of changing western minds, and paper money was finally accepted as a suitable currency. One writer noted that it was during America's participation in World War I (1917-18) that western banks finally began to install barred teller cages, as it was thought that a wad of paper was more liable to being snatched than a stack of gold coins!

The 1916-S half eagle is common in the lower grades of Mint State from hoards that were dispersed during the 1970s and '80s. These coins were repatriated from Latin America and Europe, where faith in paper money had never been strong. Gems are fairly elusive, as the coins had been moved about many times, receiving numerous marks and abrasions. Because the mintmark is the only raised feature on this distinctive coin type, it was particularly subject to abrasion and is often found very weak.

The Indian Head eagle was likewise coined only at San Francisco during 1916, some 138,500 pieces being struck in the early part of the year to meet western demand. The utility of the ten-dollar coin was not as great as that of the half eagle. Few of these were to be seen in daily commerce, but banks still liked them as hard money reserves. The majority of surviving 1916-S eagles were also retrieved from overseas hoards, and these coins suffered the same fate of being heavily bag-marked and abraded. Examples grading higher than MS-62 are scarce, while those grading MS-65 are very rare. Keen-eyed collectors should be on the lookout for a nice repunched mintmark variety.

In the 20th Century the double eagle was always the most important of United States gold coins, and its mintage during 1916 was significantly higher than for the other denominations. Nearly 800,000 1916-S twenties were produced, but these too were mostly bagged and forgotten in vaults. A large percentage was lost to the melting pot during 1936-37 when the coins retrieved from Americans under President Roosevelt's executive order of a few years earlier were finally rendered into bars that were shipped to the Fort Knox Bullion Depository. The coins which have survived were mostly recovered from European and Latin American sources starting in the 1950s. The sheer number of surviving pieces is sufficient that gems are only moderately scarce.

The final entry in America’s coinage for 1916 is, of all things, a gold dollar. This denomination was discontinued by law in 1890, yet it was revived for a series of commemorative coins beginning in 1903. The 1916-17 issue intended to raise funds for the building of a memorial to slain President William McKinley proved to be its penultimate appearance, and sales for both dates were mediocre. Much the same may be said for the coin’s design. Charles Barber’s disappointing portrait of McKinley was his last work, executed during the final year of his long life. George Morgan’s elevation view of the memorial structure was crudely engraved and rather inaccurate, though he may have been supplied with faulty renderings by the memorial committee.

David W. Lange's column, “USA Coin Album,” appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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World Coins: British 1889 Commemorative Medal

Posted on 9/16/2014

In 1889, The Aluminium Company Limited London issued commemorative medals struck in aluminum and produced using the Deville-Castner process.

A medal commemorating The Aluminium Company Limited London in 1889 marks a turning point in the history of this metal and its applications. At this time, aluminum transformed from an expensive material to an inexpensive metal that could be used commonly in construction and later in the manufacturing of coins and tokens.

Before the 1880s, aluminum was a very expensive metal. The process to produce the metal was difficult and the ingredients were expensive, resulting in a production cost that exceeded that of gold at times. Prior to the 1850s, the method to produce aluminum used potassium and anhydrous aluminum chloride. Etienne Sainte-Claire Deville of France discovered a way to substitute potassium for sodium, which was significantly cheaper. Hamilton Young Castner was an American who experimented with aluminum manufacturing in England and developed a process to produce aluminum that was 99.5% pure. In 1887 aluminum was trading for \$15 a pound, but after The Aluminium Company began using the Deville-Castner process of producing purer, cheaper aluminum the market price fell to \$5 a pound. As more aluminum was produced using this cheaper manufacturing method, the price dropped to \$1 a pound by 1888.

In 1889, The Aluminium Company Limited London issued commemorative medals struck in aluminum produced using the Deville-Castner process. These medals featured Vulcan (the god of fire) seated at the furnace next to a female figure holding a lamp with the inscription "Labour Science Industry." The other side was an advertisement for the manufacturers of the medal - The Aluminium Company Limited London. These medals were for the Exposition Universelle Worlds Fair in Paris, France during the year 1889.



British 1889 The Aluminium Company Limited London Issued Commemorative Medal
Click images to enlarge.

The aluminum manufacturing process that these medals commemorate is what brought about a crash in the price of aluminum, allowing it to become a common metal utilized in construction and in circulating coins and tokens. Today the medals are available and often overlooked for their historical significance in advertising and in changing the world by introducing cheaper and purer aluminum.

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From the NGC Archives: 1849 Braided Hair Cent

Posted on 9/16/2014

The so-called Mature Head of Liberty, as seen on this large cent, is really nothing more than the older Petite Head rotated a few degrees.

It debuted in 1843 and remained standard through the end of large cent coinage in 1857.



Since 1944, the standard reference for late date cents has been Howard R. Newcombs fine book. The choice specimen presented here is an example of his variety 10, easily distinguished by a large die break atop Libertys coronet. In the Bob Grellman/Jules Reiver revision of Newcombs work, this variety is rated R-4, making it scarce in all grades and particularly so in mint state. This charming cent is boldly struck throughout and displays glossy, reddish-brown surfaces. Despite the die crumbling which typifies this variety, it is a very attractive cent and especially so given its rarity.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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Chinese Coins: Set Pieces

Posted by Peter Anthony on 9/16/2014

A set of low-mintage Panda medals offers both value and beauty to collectors.

When I was a kid I collected Lincoln cents. Every trip to the store meant a new chance to fill one of the blank spots in my blue folder. I didn't think about it much at the time but those cents were my first set of coins. For collectors there is something fundamental about forming sets. In China that fascination merges with the belief that there is harmony and completion in sets.

But what group, or set of Panda coins, best embodies that ideal of harmony? There are so many possibilities. Most of the popular ones are listed in the [NGC Registry](#). There you can find lists of sets like "Silver 10 Yuan Panda, 1983-Date, One-Per-Date" or "Gold 1 Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State."

If you look down at the bottom of the page there is a category for "Panda Medals." While medals often get less attention than coins, many times they have the best stories associated with them. That is because they are connected to a single coin show or event. During the 1980s as interest in Panda coins reached a fever pitch, so did demand for Panda medals. This led to some colorful incidents that are now part of their history.

As of today there are seven medal sets in the NGC Registry. The highest profile may be the "Gold 1 Ounce Panda Medals, 1987-1990, Proof." By chance this set contains an even ten medals and several have very low mintages as few as 500. If those published mintages aren't low enough, the actual mintages of some are even lower!

One very popular set is the "Silver Panda 1 Ounce Medals, 1984-Date, Mint State and Proof." Among the 23 medals in this set is the very first Panda medal issued as well as a pair of medals struck in 2014. It's not necessary to buy all 23 to form a cohesive set, though. The nine Munich Panda medals attract interest from collectors, particularly in Europe.

Between 1990 and 1997 the China Mint struck a silver medal each year for the Munich International Coin Show. The medals are quite beautiful and feature notable places and monuments in Munich on one side and a Panda on the other. Mintages are attractively small: 2,500 for most years and only 1,800 in 1997. The coins were sold by one of the largest distributors of Chinese coins during this period, M.D.M. Deutsche Münze of Germany.

Another interesting set of medals is the “Silver 5 Ounce Panda Medals, 1985-Date, Proof.” The first of these large Silver Pandas was released in Hong Kong in 1985. By 1987 when the Long Beach silver Panda medals were issued, new issues were blazing hot and immediately jumped in value. Competition for the medals was fierce and led to all sorts of schemes and frayed tempers.



It's a long time since I tried to complete my Lincoln cent set. The magic and challenge of a complete set is still there, though, and a set of low-mintage Panda medals offers both value and beauty to collectors.

For those interested, current prices for Panda medals can be found in the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#). Further information is available online as well as in the *Gold & Silver Panda Coin Buyer's Guide* book.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He is an analyst for the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.



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Numismatica Leiloes to Present Important Collection of NGC-graded Portuguese Coins

Posted on 9/16/2014

The upcoming Numismatica Leiloes auction features a rich selection of Portuguese coins solely certified by NGC.

For the first time in Portugal, and probably in Europe, collectors worldwide will have the opportunity to bid for an entire collection of coins solely graded by NGC.

The auction will feature more than 300 select lots from Portugal and Portuguese former colonies and a small group of ancient coins and world coins. Many of them are the single finest known on NGC Census.

The auction will be held on October 3, 2014 at the Sheraton Lisboa Hotel & Spa and begins with lot viewing Monday, September 29, to Wednesday, October 1, followed by one single session on Friday, October 3, at 4 p.m. More information can be found on Numismatica Leiloes website, www.numismaticaleiloes.pt

Among the many coin highlights are the following:

- Angola, Macuta 1770, Muled with Maria Obverse, Gomes 03.01, KM n/c, NGC MS 63 BN, exceedingly rare
- Portuguese Guinea, Escudo 1933, Gomes 09.01, KM 5, NGC MS 67, highly elusive in this grade
- Portuguese India, Rupia 1911, Silver Essai, Gomes E6.01, KM Pn31, NGC PF 66 Cameo, extremely rare
- Portugal, 400 Reis 1818, Gomes 13.01, KM 359, NGC MS 65, rare in this elite designation
- Portugal, 1000 Reis 1821, Gomes 14.04, KM 360, NGC MS 64, only 275 struck and seldom found in any grade

- Portugal, 6400 Reis 1745, Gomes 127.24, KM 221, NGC MS 63, superb condition
- Portugal, 6400 Reis 1834, Gomes 19.01, KM 405, NGC MS 64, exceptional eye appeal
- Portugal, 500 Reis 1908 Proof-Like, Gomes 04.02, KM 547, NGC MS 66 PL, rare in this premium designation
- Portugal, Escudo 1935, Gomes 25.06, KM 578, NGC MS 65, very rare in this superior quality

Online bidding has begun and pre-auction bids will be accepted at www.numismaticaleiloes.pt; by email at geral@numismaticaleiloes.pt; by fax at (+351) 217971359; and by postal mail addressed to Numismatica Leiloes, R. Dom Luiz de Noronha, 26 - 6º Esq, 1050-072 Lisboa, Portugal. Interested bidders are also encouraged to view lots on our offices (by appointment only) in September and bid in-person at the live auction, or live online through Invaluable e-platform.

About Numismatica Leiloes:

Numismatica Leiloes is a Portuguese numismatic auction house founded in 2012. Despite our recent market appearance, we have already established a small tradition of successful auctions. We are claiming our space and building an image of integrity, honesty and strength that has been attracting more and more customers, making our customer's database unparalleled in Portugal.

This is a guest article. The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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Immunis Columbia Confederation Copper Highlights November Eric P. Newman Offerings

Posted by Heritage Auctions on 9/16/2014

Heritage Auctions' November event in New York features selections from the Eric P. Newman Collection Part V.

A mint state 1786 Immunis Columbia Confederatio Copper — a stunning survivor of America's early numismatic history and one of just a handful of such coins known to exist — highlights the extraordinary presentation of the Selections from the Eric P. Newman Collection Part V, now scheduled for November 14 and 15, 2014 by Heritage Auctions. The two-day event in New York City will offer the latest selections from a renowned collection that has so far realized \$45 million, touching every corner of the rare and collectible coin hobby.

"We are honored to bring this latest selection of coins to auction to the enjoyment of collectors everywhere and to the benefit of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society," said Jim Halperin, Co-Chairman of Heritage Auctions. "Part V will feature superb Colonial copper and important 19th century rarities in the finest condition ever recorded and we think collectors will be dazzled to see what true treasures this latest offering holds."

The momentous selections featured in the Selections from the Eric P. Newman Collection Part V include:

1786 Immunis Columbia Copper, Confederatio Reverse, Large Stars, Whitman-5665, MS 64 Brown NGC, harkens to the early years of the republic and it is estimated to be one of just three or four known to still exist.

1792 Getz Copper, Small Eagle, Plain Edge, Whitman-10775, MS 64 Brown NGC, is the finest of only three certified by NGC and one of fewer than 30 examples known to exist. This specimen carries the "Colonel" E.H.R. Green provenance.

1794 Silver Dollar, AU 50 NGC, pedigreed to Matthew A. Stickney, Major Richard Lambert, and "Colonel" E.H.R. Green. This dollar features a strong date and medallic-like devices.

1776 Continental Dollar, Pewter, E.G. Fecit, Newman 3-D, Whitman-8460, MS 66 NGC, one of just three NGC has certified in MS 66 and an exceedingly important opportunity for the specialist.

1785 Inimica Tyrannis Copper, Confederatio Reverse, Large Stars, Whitman-5630, MS 63 Brown NGC, a "Colonel" E.H.R. Green specimen and one of seven or eight examples known of this variety, yet far finer than any other.

1776 Continental Dollar, Currencey, Pewter, Newman 4-D, Whitman-8475, MS 63 NGC, the finest specimen ever graded of this important variety with the CURRENCEY misspelling.

1792 Washington President Copper, Eagle and Stars, Whitman-10685, XF 40 NGC, a rare variant with the T in PRESIDENT below the bust is considered unique, available for the first time in nearly a century.

1855 Wass, Molitor & Co. Fifty Dollar, Kagin-9, MS 61 NGC, one of only a half dozen NGC certified mint state examples known.

1867 Liberty Double Eagle, MS 66 NGC, graded three points finer than the previous best example seen at either NGC or PCGS.

1879 Flowing Hair Stella, PR 65 NGC, an original example in the intended alloy of 85 percent gold, 10 percent copper, and 5 percent silver.

1898-S Five Dollar, MS 68 ★ NGC, the finest certified example known.

A complete list of coins that will be offered in this auction will be released in the coming weeks.

Heritage Auctions' presentation of Selections from the Eric P. Newman Collection Part V takes place Nov. 14-15 at the Fletcher-Sinclair Mansion, 2 E. 79th Street,

at 5th Ave., following lot viewing at [Heritage's Park Avenue offices](#), 445 Park Ave.
at 57th St.



Items being sold are from the extensive collection of Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (a Missouri not-for-profit corporation) and have been assembled over a period of 90 years. Proceeds of the sale of all items will be used exclusively for supplementing the Society's museum operations and scholarly numismatic research efforts and for the benefit of other not-for-profit institutions selected by Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society for public purposes.

This is a guest article. The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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